

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7807

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 1064

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CD

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING IN CHAD

REF: A. NDJAMENA 1040; B. BONN 6478

1. AS MEDIA REPORTS NOW INDICATE SOME OF FACTS IN OUR ORIGINAL INFORMATION AS RECEIVED FROM FRG WERE INACCURATE: DOCTOR STAEWEN IS SURGEON NOT ANTHROPOLOGIST AND IS STATIONED IN BARDAI UNDER GOC-FRG MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT; DEAD WOMAN IS MRS. STAEWEN; FRENCH MRA OFFICER DID NOT RPT NOT ESCAPE BUT IS ALSO HELD AS HOSTAGE AND IS BEING USED BY INSURGENT BAND TO OPERATE HIS VEHICLE-MOUNTED RADIO; FRENCH WOMAN (MME. CLAUSTRE) IS REPORTEDLY ARCHEOLOGIST WIFE OF FRENCH MRA OFFICIAL ASSIGNED N'DJAMENA.

2. PRESS IS UNAWARE OF SOME OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS WHICH ARE BEING CLOSELY GUARDED HERE: ON MORNING APRIL 22 MRA OFFICER (COLME) WAS ALLOWED BY CAPTORS TO CONTACT PREFECT AT FAYA-LARGEAU WHERE HE IS BAXED TO REPORT INCIDENT. ON MORNING OF APRIL 23 HE TOLD FAYA-LARGEAU HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO BROADCAST "COMMUNIQUE" FROM GROUP DESCRIBING ITSELF, ACCORDING TO GERMAN AMBASSADOR, AS "ARMED FORCES OF THE CHADIAN REVOLUTION" (HERETOFORE UNKNOWN APPELLATION).

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3. COMMUNIQUE SAID REVOLUTIONARY FORCES SUCCESSFULLY ATTACKED TOWN OF BARDAI WHERE TWO CHADIAN OFFICERS, COMMANDANT AND DEPUTY COMMANDANT OF GARRISON, WERE KILLED. REGRETTABLY MRS. STAEWEN WAS KILLED BY ACCIDENT AND HOSTAGES HAD TO BE TAKEN. HOSTAGES WERE BEING WELL TREATED AND WOULD BE RELEASED AS SOON AS CONFIRMATION RECEIVED BY CAPTORS THAT ITS REGRETS AND CONDOLENCES TO GERMAN PEOPLE HAD BEEN BROADCAST INTERNATIONALLY ON OFFICIAL GERMAN AND FRENCH RADIOS.

4. ALTHOUGH FRG HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THIS REBEL OFFER PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE HAS ASKED FRG TO DELAY COMPLIANCE WHILE MILITARY OPERATION AGAINST THEM IS MOUNTED. TWO FRENCH MILITARY TRANSPORTS FLEW "TWO SECTIONS" OF CHADIAN PARATROOPS (ESTIMATED 100 MEN) FROM N'DJAMENA TO FAYA-LARGEAU MORNING OF APRIL 24 FROM WHERE THEY WILL BE FERRIED BY CHADIAN AIR FORCE C-47 TO BARDAI. DEATH OF TWO CHADIAN OFFICERS, BOTH REPORTEDLY OF SARA (SOUTHERN) ORIGIN AND ALSO DINNER GUESTS OF STAEWENS, HAS BEEN CONFIRMED. WE UNDERSTAND NO CHADIAN FORCES WERE PRESENT IN BARDAI WHEN GERMAN COMPOUND ATTACKED. DETACHMENT OF CAMELMOUNTED GARDE NOMADE, CAMPED NEARBY, ARRIVED ON SCENE AFTER ATTACKERS LEFT.

5. FRG AMBASSADOR STATES HE IS KEPT IN CONFUSION BY CONFLICTING REPORTS HE IS RECEIVING ON INCIDENT FROM SEC STATE FOR INTERIOR ON ONE HAND AND MAJOR GOURVENNEC, GOC INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CHIEF, ON OTHER. AMBASSADOR BELIEVES GOC ACTIONS MOTIVATED BY UNDERSTANDABLE DESIRE TO PREVENT INCIDENT FROM CAUSING BREAKDOWN IN ZOUAR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH TOUBOUS WHICH ARE AT ADVANCED AND HOPEFUL STAGE. GOC ALSO CLEARLY WISHES TO REINFORCE ITS AUTHORITY, ALWAYS TENUOUS, IN TIBESTI REGION, BUT WE FEEL THAT WILL REQUIRE MORE THAN 100 PARATROOPERS UNFAMILIARY WITH THAT FORBIDDING MASSIF. CHADIAN MEDIA HAVE REPORTED NOTHING OF INCIDENT TO DATE.

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